environmental clearance and investment decision

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has accepted that some project in Uttar Pradesh and bihar are pending fore certain reasons. In this connection, will the hon'ble Minister please inform us about the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. speaker, Sir, the Rihand (Stage-II) Project in Uttar Pradesh and North Karanpura Project in Bihar are under consideration but North Karanpura (Stage-I) Projects is pending completion on account of paucity of funds.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has categorically accepted in his reply that Dadri Gas Based Power Project and Farukhabad Gas Project in Uttar Pradesh are pending for confirmation of gas linkages and other clearances. In this connection, I would like to know categorically from the hon'ble Minister the time or date by which these projects are likely to get requisite clearance and the time by which they would be completed?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, huge funds are spent on power projects. The Rihand Project (Stage-II) has been propared by N.E.I., England but tie financial the up has not yet been decided. North Karanpura is awaiting environmental clearance. It is a major obstacle in techno-economic clearance. Whent the techno-economic clearance is given, the Central Electricity authority also accords its clearance and financial tie-up is decided, work on these projects will start.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar gets only 15 per cent of its total power requirement. Is there any special erath programme with the Government through which the electricity generation capacity may be increased. The second part of my question relates to the agreement sigend between India and Nepal which gave rise to hope that Bihar will get electricity after the completion of this project but due to some reasons the proposal could not be implemented. Is the Government taking any early steps to expdite this so as to resolve electricity problem in Bihar .

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar has the potential of an installed capacity 1300 megawat power but only 300 megawat is being generated. The plant load factor of Bihar is the lowest in the country. I would request you to ask the Bihar Government to increase the plant load factor.

[*English*]

The worst affected state today is Bihar and the plant load factor of Bihar is so per cent. Therefore, We have to exploit the installed capacity and maximise the production of power. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. SPEAKER: I now declare that the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Gold from Cyanide

*655. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted about the availability of gold from cyanide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to extract gold from cyanide which is dumped around the gold mines after extracting gold; and

(d) if so, the percentage of gold likely ot be available from cyanide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that there are about 40 million tonnes of tailing sands in the Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka). Sampling done in dumps of 22 million tonnes have indicated presence of gold varying from 0.4 grams to 0.8 grams per tonne.

(c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited is already extracting gold from tailings by a semi-commercial pilot plant through heap-leaching process.

(d) Bharat Gold Mines Limited have been able to recover around 54% of the available gold through the heap leaching process from the tailing sands.

Foreign Investment for tourism

*656. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to avail foreign investment in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the states which have given tourism the status of industry; and

(d) whether other States have been asked to take similar action.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). On the recommendations of the Central Government, 14 States and 3 *Union* Territories have accorded industry status to tourism. *The State Tourism Ministers Conference held in New Delhi in December, 1991 adopted a recommendatory resolution* requesting the remaining State Governments to declare Tourism as an Industry.

Purchase of Boeing 777

*657. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Economic Times dated March 26, 1992 regarding purchase of Boeing 777 aircraft;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accure to the Indian Airlines and the Air India by including the Boeing 777 in their fleet renewal programme over the next decade; and

(d) the estimated expenditure involved in the proposed deal in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Air India and Indian Airlines have presently no immediate plans to acquire any aircraft, other than those for which definitive purchase agreements have already been signed. Boeing 777 is a medium capacity and medium to long range aircraft and would be evaluated along with other similar aircraft in accordance with the respective fleet renewal plans.